

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A treating composition for treating one or more shoes, said treating composition comprising one or more benefit agents that imparts one or more desired benefits to the one or more shoes when the treating composition is applied directly or indirectly to the one or more shoes prior to, during and/or after washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium, wherein the treating composition comprises no more than about 30% by weight of the treating composition of chromium-binding agents that are capable of binding Cr^{3+} with a log K binding constant of more than about 12, and wherein said treating composition is formulated so that any damage as a result of washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium with application of the treating composition is reduced compared to washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium without application of the treating composition.

Claim 2. (Original) The treating composition according to Claim 1 wherein the one or more benefit agents is selected from the group consisting of: cleaning agents, conditioning agents, disinfecting agents, antibacterial agents, antimicrobial agents, antifungal agents, odor control agents, waterproofing agents, soil release agents, brightening agents, alkaline pH modifiers, perfume, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3. (Original) The treating composition according to Claim 2 wherein the cleaning agents are selected from the group consisting of: one or more surfactants, calcium/magnesium removal agents, alkaline pH modifiers, soil release agents, enzymes, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A treating composition for treating one or more shoes, said treating composition comprising one or more calcium/magnesium removal agents that imparts one or more desired benefits to the one or more shoes when the treating composition is applied directly or indirectly to the one or more shoes prior to, during and/or after washing

the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium, A treating composition according to Claim 3 wherein the one or more calcium/magnesium removal agents are selected from the group consisting of polycarboxylates, polyacrylates, salts of polyacrylic acids, acrylate/maleate copolymers, salts of acrylate/maleic acid copolymers, citrates, ether polycarboxylates, oxydisuccinate, polyaspartates, polyglycolates, and mixtures thereof, wherein the one or more calcium/magnesium removal agents have a molecular weight of greater than about 500, and wherein the treating composition is formulated so that any damage as a result of washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium with application of the treating composition is reduced compared to washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium without application of the treating composition.

Claim 5. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 4 wherein the one or more calcium/magnesium removal agents are selected from the group consisting of: polyacrylates, salts of polyacrylic acids, acrylate/maleate copolymers, salts of acrylate/maleic acid copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 4 wherein the one or more calcium/magnesium removal agents are selected from the group consisting of: polyacrylates, salts of polyacrylic acids, acrylate/maleate copolymers, salts of acrylate/maleic acid copolymers and mixtures thereof wherein the average molecular weight is less than about 100,000.

Claims 7-8. (cancelled)

Claim 9. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 2 wherein the cleaning agents comprise one or more surfactants, and the one or more surfactants are selected from the group consisting of: anionic, nonionic, cationic, zwitterionic, and amphophilic surfactants and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 9 wherein the one or more surfactants are selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, nonionic surfactants and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 9 wherein at least some of the one or more surfactants are nonionic surfactants comprising C₈-C₁₈ alkyl ethoxylates, with an average degree of ethoxylation from about 5 to about 15 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of alcohol, and the treating composition contains from about 1% to about 80% by weight of nonionic surfactant.

Claim 12. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 2 wherein the cleaning agents comprise one or more surfactants and one or more calcium/magnesium removal agents selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, salts of polyacrylic acids, acrylate/maleate copolymers, salts of acrylate/maleic acid and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 12 wherein the surfactants comprise nonionic surfactants.

Claim 14. (Original) The treating composition according to Claim 2 wherein the conditioning agents are selected from the group consisting of: acrylic syntans and other hydrophobically modified polymers, silicones, fluorocarbons, fatliquors, lecithin, fluoropolymers, sucrose polyesters, quaternary ammonium salts, oils, waxes and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15. (Cancelled).

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A treating composition for treating one or more shoes, said treating composition comprising one or more conditioning agents that imparts one or more desired benefits to the one or more shoes when the treating composition is applied directly or indirectly to the one or more shoes prior to, during and/or after washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium, The treating composition according to Claim 2 wherein the one or more conditioning agents comprise one or more hydrophilic units and one or more hydrophobic units such that the ratio of hydrophilic units to hydrophobic units is from about 0.01 to about 100. wherein said treating composition is formulated so that any damage as a result of washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium with application of the treating composition is reduced compared to washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium without application of the treating composition.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A treating composition for treating one or more shoes, the treating composition comprising one or more benefit agents that imparts one or more desired benefits to the one or more shoes when the treating composition is applied directly or indirectly to the one or more shoes prior to, during and/or after washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium, The treating composition of Claim 1 wherein the one or more benefit agents are selected such that the ratio of the water absorption into an interior surface of the one or more shoes treated by the treating composition to the water absorption into the interior surface prior to treatment with the treating composition is greater than about 0.1, and wherein the treating composition is formulated so that any damage as a result of washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium with application of the treating composition is reduced compared to washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium without application of the treating composition.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A treating composition for treating one or more shoes, the treating composition comprising one or more benefit agents that imparts one or more desired benefits to the one or more shoes when the treating composition is applied directly or indirectly to the one or more shoes prior to, during and/or after washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium The treating composition of Claim 1 wherein the one or more benefit agents are selected such that the ratio of the friction between a surface of the one or more shoes treated by the treating composition and a second surface to the friction between the surface prior to treatment with the treating composition and the second surface is greater than about 0.7, and further wherein the treating composition is formulated so that any damage as a result of washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium with application of the treating composition is reduced compared to washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium without application of the treating composition.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A treating composition for treating one or more shoes, the treating composition comprising one or more benefit agents that imparts one or more desired benefits to the one or more shoes when the treating composition is applied directly or indirectly to the one or more shoes prior to, during and/or after washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium, The treating composition of Claim 1 wherein said

treating composition is applied: to one or more interior surfaces of the one or more shoes; to one or more exterior surfaces of the one or more shoes, or both, and wherein said treating composition is formulated so that any damage as a result of washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium with application of the treating composition is reduced compared to washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium without application of the treating composition.

Claim 20. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 1 which has a pH, as determined in a 10% aqueous solution of the neat treating composition, in the range of from about 2.5 to about 11.

Claim 21. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 20 which has a pH, as determined in a 10% aqueous solution of the neat treating composition, in the range of from about 5 to about 10.

Claim 22. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 21 which has a pH, as determined in a 10% aqueous solution of the neat treating composition, in the range of from about 6 to about 9.

Claim 23. (Original) The treating solution of Claim 1 which comprises a conditioning composition that has a pH, as determined in a 10% aqueous solution of the neat conditioning composition, that is in the range of from about 2.5 to about 9.

Claim 24. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 23 which comprises a conditioning composition that has a pH, as determined in a 10% aqueous solution of the neat conditioning composition, that is in the range of from about 3 to about 8.

Claim 25. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 24 which comprises a conditioning composition that has a pH, as determined in a 10% aqueous solution of the neat conditioning composition, that is in the range of from about 3.5 to about 7.

Claim 26. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 1 which comprises a cleaning composition that has a pH, as determined in a 10% aqueous solution of the neat cleaning composition, in the range of from about 5 to about 11.

Claim 27. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 26 which comprises a cleaning composition that has a pH, as determined in a 10% aqueous solution of the neat cleaning composition, in the range of from about 6 to about 10.

Claim 28. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 27 which comprises a cleaning composition that has a pH, as determined in a 10% aqueous solution of the neat cleaning composition, in the range of from about 7 to about 10.

Claim 29. (Original) The treating composition according to Claim 2 wherein the disinfecting agent is selected from the group consisting of: quaternary ammonium salts, saturated and unsaturated C₈ to C₁₁ fatty acids, phenols and their salts, o-phenyl phenol and its salts, t-amyl phenol and its salts, alkyl phenols and their salts, trichlorocarbanilide, 4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenol and its salts, chlorhexidine, phospholipids, thymol, eugenol, geraniol, oil of lemon grass, limonene, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 30. (Currently amended) A treating composition for treating one or more shoes, the treating composition comprising one or more disinfecting agents that imparts one or more desired benefits to the one or more shoes when the treating composition is applied directly or indirectly to the one or more shoes prior to, during and/or after washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium, The treating composition according to Claim 2 wherein the one or more disinfecting agent agents at least partially comprises comprise C₈ to C₁₁ fatty acid, and is are used at a pH < about 5.5, and wherein the treating composition is formulated so that any damage as a result of washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium with application of the treating composition is reduced compared to washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium without application of the treating composition.

Claim 31. (Original) The treating composition according to Claim 2 wherein the disinfecting agent is selected from the group consisting of: (1) benzalkonium chlorides and/or

substituted benzalkonium chlorides; (2) dialkyl quaternary; (3) N-(3-chloroallyl) hexaminium chlorides; (4) benzethonium chloride; (5) methylbenzethonium chloride; and (6) cetylpyridinium chloride.

Claim 32. (Original) The treating composition according to Claim 2 wherein the disinfecting agent is selected from the group consisting of: chlorhexidene and its salts, and polyhexamethylene biguanide hydrochloride and its salts.

Claims 33-34. (cancelled)

Claim 35. (Original) A post wash treating composition according to Claim 2 wherein the benefit agents are selected from the group consisting of: soil release agents, waterproofing agents, soil release polymers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 36. (Original) A treating composition according to Claim 3 comprising enzymes selected from the group consisting of cellulases and proteases.

Claim 37. (Original) A treating composition according to Claim 1 which comprises a phosphorous-containing compound.

Claim 38. (Original) A treating composition according to Claim 2 further comprising an additional ingredient selected from the group consisting of: a spreading agent, an alkaline pH modifier, and an anti-foaming agent.

Claim 39. (Currently amended) A treating composition for treating one or more shoes, the treating composition comprising one or more brightening agents that imparts one or more desired benefits to the one or more shoes when the treating composition is applied directly or indirectly to the one or more shoes prior to, during and/or after washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium, The treating composition according to Claim 2 comprising a wherein the one or more brightening agent agents which is are deposited on leather and/or the midsoles of shoes as evidenced by solution depletion of about 1% or greater without visible brightener staining, and wherein the treating composition is formulated so that any damage as a result of washing the one or more shoes with or in an

aqueous medium with application of the treating composition is reduced compared to washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium without application of the treating composition.

Claim 40. (cancelled)

Claim 41. (Previously Presented) The treating composition according to Claim 2 comprising a perfume wherein said perfume comprises at least about 25% of substantive perfume ingredients, by weight of the perfume composition.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented) A treating composition according to Claim 1 which at least partially comprises a conditioning composition and at least some of the one or more benefit agents associated with the treating composition comprise one or more conditioning agents that imparts a conditioning benefit to the one or more shoes.

Claim 43. (Previously Presented) A treating composition according to Claim 1 which at least partially comprises a cleaning composition and the one or more benefit agents associated with the treating composition comprise one or more cleaning agents that imparts a cleaning benefit to the one or more shoes.

Claim 44. (Previously Presented) A treating composition for treating one or more shoes according to Claim 1 wherein the treating composition comprises:

- a) one or more cleaning agents; and
- b) one or more conditioning agents

wherein cleaning benefits and/or conditioning benefits are imparted to the one or more shoes when the treating composition is applied to the one or more shoes prior to and/or during and/or after washing the one or more shoes.

Claim 45. (Currently Amended) A treating system for treating one or more shoes according to Claim 1 wherein the treating composition comprises:

- a) a cleaning composition comprising one or more cleaning agents capable of being applied in a manner such that the one or more cleaning agents contacts one or more exterior surfaces of the one or more shoes; and

b) a conditioning composition physically and/or chemically separated from the cleaning composition of a) wherein the conditioning composition comprises one or more conditioning agents capable of being applied in a manner such that the one or more conditioning agents contacts one or more interior surfaces of the one or more shoes;

such that the cleaning composition and/or conditioning composition imparts cleaning benefits and/or conditioning benefits to the one or more shoes when the cleaning composition and/or conditioning composition are applied to the one or more shoes prior to and/or during and/or after washing the one or more shoes, and wherein said treating composition is formulated so that any damage as a result of washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium with application of the treating composition is reduced compared to washing the one or more shoes with or in an aqueous medium without application of the treating composition.

Claim 46. (Original) A treating composition according to Claim 1 comprising a cleaning composition which is in the form of a gel.

Claim 47. (Original) A treating composition according to Claim 1 comprising a conditioning composition which is in the form of a liquid.

Claim 48. (Original) The treating system according to Claim 45 wherein the cleaning composition has a pH that is greater than the pH of the conditioning composition.

Claim 49. (Original) The treating system according to Claim 45 wherein the cleaning composition has a pH, as determined in a 10% aqueous solution of the neat cleaning composition, that is in the range of from about 5 to about 11.

Claim 50. (Original) The treating composition according to Claim 45 wherein the conditioning composition has a pH, as determined in a 10% aqueous solution of the neat conditioning composition, that is in the range of from about 2.5 to about 9.

Claim 51. (Original) The treating composition of claim 1 wherein the one or more desired benefits endures washing of the one or more shoes.

Claim 52. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 1 wherein the one or more shoes comprise canvas, nylon, synthetic leather and/or natural leather-containing surfaces.

Claim 53. (Original) The treating composition of Claim 52 for treating shoes with natural leather-containing surfaces that is essentially free of bleach, particularly chlorine bleach.

Claims 54-73. (cancelled)

Claim 74. (Original) A product comprising a benefit agent-containing treating composition according to Claim 1, the product further including instructions for using the treating composition to treat a shoe, the instructions including the step of: contacting said shoe with an effective amount of said treating composition for an effective amount of time such that said composition treats said shoe.